

CIA OPERATIONS CENTER

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ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) -- FORMER CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY DIRECTOR WILLIAM E. COLBY SAID TODAY THE CIA DID NOT INDEX ALL THE NAMES OF PERSONS WHOSE LETTERS TO THE SOVIET UNION WERE INTERCEPTED BECAUSE SOME OF THE LETTERS WEREN'T OPENED.

COLBY SAID HE BELIEVED THAT ONLY PERSONS WHOSE LETTERS WERE OPENED ARE INCLUDED IN A MICROFILM INDEX THE AGENCY COMPILED FROM 1953 TO EARLY 1973, WHEN, COLBY SAID, HE LEARNED OF THE PROGRAM AND ORDERED IT HALTED.

BEFORE SPEAKING TO THE NEW JERSEY BANKERS ASSOCIATION HERE, COLBY WAS ASKED AT A NEWS CONFERENCE WHETHER HIS AGENCY SHOULD APOLOGIZE TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC FOR ALLEGED MISDEEDS IN THE PAST.

"THE TESTIMONY OF THE LAST YEAR OR SO, IN WHICH WE CERTAINLY PROVIDED ALL THE SPECIFICS OF THE PAST AND WHICH I PUT OUT IN PUBLIC, DID CONSTITUTE A STATEMENT THAT WE DID THINGS THAT WERE WRONG," HE SAID.

COLBY SAID HE WELCOMED THE NEW SENATE COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE AND SAID HE THOUGHT THE SENATORS WOULD MAKE A SERIOUS EFFORT TO GUIDE THE AGENCY.

"THE BETTER THE EXTERNAL SUPERVISION OF THE SYSTEM, THE BETTER THE INTERNAL SUPERVISION," HE SAID.

COLBY ALSO SAID THE AGENCY MUST REVISE ITS POLICY ON SECRECY.

"THAT IS, LESS SECRECY ON THINGS THAT DON'T NEED TO BE SECRET AND MORE SECRECY ON THINGS THAT NEED TO BE SECRET," HE SAID.

COLBY PREDICTED THAT SOME OLD-LINE CIA OFFICERS MIGHT OBJECT TO THE NEW POLICY, BUT HE ADDED, "WE WILL BE ABLE TO KEEP THE SECRETS."

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